

Funding is Part of the Stimulus Bill Recently Passed by Congress
March 27, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that three community health centers in Louisiana's Third Congressional District will receive \$211,168 in federal funding to expand services and provide quality health care to more Louisianians. The funding was authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the economic stimulus bill. Rep. Melancon was the only Louisiana member of the House of Representatives to vote in support of the bill.

"Community health centers serve as a safety net for thousands of Louisianians struggling to afford primary care services," said Rep. Melancon. "Today's announced funding will help these health centers expand, creating good jobs and providing essential health care to more needy Louisianians. Grants like these show that the stimulus money is making its way to communities in south Louisiana, boosting our economy and creating jobs in the process, and I am pleased to support them."

The following community health centers in the Third Congressional District will receive grant funding:

Community

Health Center

Town

Grant Amount

Teche Action Board Inc.

Franklin

\$70,538

St. Charles Community Health Center, Inc.

Luling

\$70,070

Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center

New Iberia

\$70,560

Total for 3

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The grants -- titled Increased Demand for Services (IDS) grants -- will be distributed to 1,128 federally qualified health center grantees nationwide. Health centers will use the funds over the next two years to create or retain approximately 6,400 health center jobs.

In Louisiana, 24 community health centers will receive grants totaling \$4,885,087. This funding is estimate to create or retain 116 jobs and help the health centers treat an additional 40,792 patients. A full list of health centers in Louisiana receiving grants can be found here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/hrsa/louisiana.html>.

Grantees submitted plans explaining how the IDS funds would be used. Strategies to expand services may include, but are not limited to, adding new providers, expanding hours of operations or expanding services. The funds will provide care to an additional 2.1 million patients over the next two years, including approximately 1 million uninsured people.

Health centers deliver preventive and primary care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay; charges for services are set according to income. Health centers served more than 16 million patients in 2007, about 40 percent of whom had no health insurance.

The IDS awards are the second set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 3, Rep. Melancon announced that the St. Charles Community Health Center would receive \$1.3 million and the Teche Action Board would receive \$1.05 million in stimulus funding.

Rep. Melancon has supported federal funding for community health centers in Louisiana in the past, including a \$580,645 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2007 that allowed the Teche Action Clinic to hire additional physicians and clinical staff, giving them the capability to treat 2,700 more patients each year.

The funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To locate a health center near you, or learn more about community health centers and how to apply for federal funding, go online to <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/>.

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